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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (a) 724.

" (b) A large number of them have been re-employed already. The Government have been taking all possible steps to absorb the discharged personnel."

SRI P. RANGASWAMY REDDIAR :—' Is it not possible to give the correct figures as to who were re-employed and who were not employed? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I don't have the figures here. A majority of them have been re-absorbed. That assurance I can give the hon. Member."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" Is it a fact that the present Director of Public Instruction, Madras, who was allotted to Andhra and who was chucked out by the Andhra Government, has been re-absorbed by the Madras Government thereby removing the previous incumbent from the post? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" As far as the former Director of Public Instruction who has just now retired, is concerned, there was no question of ousting her from service, because her term of re-employment expired and there was no question of continuing her re-employment. As far as the present Director of Public Instruction is concerned, he was allotted to Andhra on the specific request of the Andhra Government and on the understanding that as soon as the work of organizing and setting up of the Education Department of the Andhra State was over, he would be re-allotted to this State and that we would take him back. It is only on this understanding that we took him back now."

Digging of wells for the use of Harijans in South Arcot.

* 615 Q.—SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN (on behalf of Sri M. Kattimuthu) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(a) the number of wells ordered by the Government to be dug in the South Arcot district in the year 1953–54 for the use of Harijans for drinking purposes;

(b) the number of wells dug so far; and

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to dig wells in the Vriddhachalam taluk for the use of Harijans for drinking purposes in the current year and if so, how many?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (a) 136 wells under the Rule Water-supply Scheme and 10 wells under the Harijan Welfare Scheme were ordered to be dug for the use of Harijans in the South Arcot district during 1953–54.

" (b) 68 wells under the Rural Water-Supply Scheme and 2 wells under the Harijan Welfare Scheme were completed during the year.

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"(c) 13 wells under the Rural Water-Supply Scheme for the use of Harijans in the Vriddhachalam taluk were completed during 1953–54 and 6 works were in progress."

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—"In view of the insufficient number of drinking water wells in Villupuram taluk, may I ask why this scheme has not been implemented even though several petitions have been presented to the Government several times?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—"68 wells under the Rural Water-Supply Scheme and 2 wells under the Harijan Welfare Scheme were completed. Others are either in progress or are proposed to be taken up and completed this year."

SRI K. PARTHASARATHI :—"What is the arrangement made for maintaining these wells which may be taken up by the Harijan Welfare Department or other departments? The present arrangement seems to be unsatisfactory in that when these wells go dry or the construction gives way, there is nobody to maintain them properly."

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—"I think the local bodies are maintaining these wells."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—"Sir, question No. 616[a] may be taken up tomorrow."

MR. SPEAKER :—"Yes, we may take it up tomorrow."

Jaggery producing co-operative societies.

* 617 *Q.*—SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(a) what action the Government have taken to encourage palm-jaggery industry in this State;

(b) how many training centres for this industry are in this State and how many in Malabar;

(c) how many applications have been received from Malabar to start jaggery producing co-operative societies;

(d) how many were not permitted; and

(e) the reasons therefor, if any?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—"(a) Since 1949, ex-toddy tapper members of Jaggery Manufacturing Co-operative Societies are trained in the improved methods of manufacturing palm-jaggery and palatable and nutritive palm-products like palmolates, groundnut balls, toffee, etc. Every encouragement is given to the marketing, including exports to foreign countries, of palm-jaggery through co-operatives. To strengthen the activities of the jaggery co-operatives, subsidy for the purchase of equipment and departmental staff for supervision are sanctioned in deserving

[a] Answered at the end of question hour.